

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 492. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes. (Rept. No. 106-181).

S. 1632. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for activities at Long Island Sound (Rept. No. 106-182).

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2724. A bill to make technical corrections to the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Rept. No. 106-183).

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1720. A bill for the relief of Mrs. Ruth Hairston of Carson, California by the waiver of a filing deadline for appeal from a ruling relating to her application for a survivor annuity; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 1721. A bill to provide protection for teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1722. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any 1 State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 1723. A bill to establish a program to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, and construct facilities to mitigate impacts associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in the Pacific Ocean drainage of the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1724. A bill to modify the standards for responding to import surges under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, to establish mechanisms for agricultural import monitoring and the prevention of circumvention of United States trade laws, and to strengthen the enforcement of United States trade remedy laws; to the Committee on Finance.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Res. 202. A resolution recognizing the distinguished service of John E. Cook of Williams, Arizona; considered and agreed to.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1720. A bill for the relief of Mrs. Ruth Hairston of Carson, California by the waiver of a filing deadline for appeal from a ruling relating to her appli-

cation for a survivor annuity; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### PRIVATE RELIEF LEGISLATION

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am offering today legislation to assist Mrs. Ruth Hairston, of Carson, California. Identical legislation has passed the House without objection under the sponsorship of Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD. I am pleased to support this effort in the Senate.

Mrs. Hairston requires this extreme step in order to be able to pursue a federal court appeal of the Merit Systems Protection Board (# CSF 2221413), which denied Mrs. Hairston's eligibility for an annuity following the retirement and untimely death of her former husband. The legislation does not require the annuity, but will only permit the filing of an appeal with the United States Court of Appeals. As a result, Mrs. Hairston will be permitted to challenge the denial on the merits, rather than accept the denial due to the failure to file an appeal within thirty days.

I would briefly like to describe the facts that warrant this legislation.

Mr. Paul Hairston retired in 1980, electing a survivor annuity for Mrs. Hairston to receive one-half the retirement benefit under the settlement terms. Mr. and Mrs. Hairston began receiving benefits in 1988.

The Merit Systems Protection Board, which reviews Civil Service retirement claims, concluded Mr. Hairston had failed to register Mrs. Hairston for survivors benefits following passage of 1985 law, renewing the survivor annuity previously selected in 1985. As a result the spousal survivor benefits for Mrs. Hairston were canceled. Following Mr. Hairston's death in 1995, Mrs. Hairston's benefits, her portion of his retirement benefit under the divorce settlement, ceased. Mrs. Hairston was denied eligibility as a surviving spouse, but did not challenge or appeal the denial of eligibility, due to hospitalization and poor health.

I am pleased to introduce this private legislation to assist my constituent Mrs. Ruth Hairston. While this legislation represents an extraordinary measure, the step is necessary in order to permit her to appeal the denial of eligibility by the Merit Systems Protection Board in federal court. As I have previously stated, this legislation does not require any specific outcome. The federal court will review the appeal with all the rigor the case deserves. However, Mrs. Hairston will receive her day in court and the opportunity to challenge the decision by the Merit Systems Protection Board to deny her eligibility.

I understand Mrs. Hairston is under considerable financial pressure and could face foreclosure on her home. I am pleased to try to assist Mrs. Hairston in her appeal. Mr. President, I hope you and the subcommittee will support this bill so that Mrs. Hairston may begin to rebuild her life.●

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 1721. A bill to provide protection for teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### THE TEACHER LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Liability Protection Act of 1999. This legislation provides limited immunity for teachers, principals and other education professionals who take reasonable measures to maintain order and discipline in America's schools and classrooms in order to create a positive education environment. In other words, it allows teachers to do what is necessary to provide an environment conducive to learning without fear of being sued. This bill allows teachers to control their classrooms. It allows teachers to teach.

The ability of teachers and principals to teach, inspire and shape the intellect of our Nation's students is hindered by frivolous lawsuits and litigation. By creating a national standard for protecting teachers and education professionals through limited civil liability immunity, we allow teachers to teach, and we help our children to learn.

Mr. President, we must give educators the resources they need to educate our children, and these resources include the legal protection necessary to do their job and maintain a safe classroom. Principals must be able to control the schools, teachers must be able to control classrooms. Unruly and unmanageable children must not be allowed to endanger, intimidate or harm other students. It is our responsibility, as members of the United States Senate, to give teachers the legal protections necessary to provide a safe learning environment for all children in their care. We must give teachers the freedom they need to responsibly handle potentially dangerous situations without the fear of frivolous legal reprisals.

Based on the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, which I introduced and which was signed into law, the Teacher Liability Protection Act would create a national standard to protect every teacher in the country, but would not override any state law that provides greater immunity or liability protection. This bill recognizes the authority of the states on these matters and allows them to opt out of the coverage and provide teachers with a higher or lower level of liability protection if they so choose.

This bill also recognizes that millions of parents across the nation depend upon teachers, principals and other school professionals for the educational development of their children. It affirms the fact that most teachers are hard-working professionals who care deeply for our children and go to extraordinary lengths to help them learn. However, this bill does not protect a teacher when he or she engages in wanton and willful misconduct, a criminal act or violations of State and